

ARTICLE APPEARED
PAGE 38NEW YORK TIMES
3 October 1985

FILE ONLY

LaRouche Arouses Fears In Rural Area of Virginia

By BEN A. FRANKLIN

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Oct. 2 — In 1983, when Lyndon H. LaRouche Jr., the rightist ideologue who has run for President three times, began relocating the Manhattan headquarters of his multimillion-dollar publication enterprises to the Washington area, the migration attracted little notice.

But now, well after it has settled in, the LaRouche organization is being viewed seriously, even gravely, by its neighbors in Loudoun County in northern Virginia. The "LaRouchians," as the more militant critics refer to the LaRouche aides and employees, face what one of the organization's lawyers calls "a frenzy, almost a hysteria" of opposition.

The most immediate cause of this opposition is a request by the LaRouche organization, which publishes rightist books, newspapers and pamphlets, for permission to run a summer camp in Loudoun for children of LaRouche employees. But that is only a small part of the picture.

Many Loudoun residents say the LaRouche organization has established in their midst an armed group of ideologues on a once-peaceful rural tract near the county seat of Leesburg, an estate surrounded by fences and watched over by television monitors and men patrolling with semi-automatic rifles. The residents contend that the summer camp, to be situated elsewhere in the county, would not be a healthy place for children.

A spokesman said Mr. LaRouche would not grant an interview. But the LaRouche forces, for their part, are blaming the opposition, which includes the Leesburg Garden Club and a number of wealthy northern Virginia equestrians, on "the dope lobby" and unnamed Communists and "sodomists."

Mr. LaRouche, who is 62 years old and ran for President in 1976, 1980 and 1984, as an independent or a Democrat, asserted in a recent guest column in the weekly paper The Loudoun Times-Mirror that "radical and liberal members of the Loudoun community" were circulating the same "wild lies" about him as "circles that take the Soviet side against me."

At other times, he has said that he and his wife, Helga, are the targets of assassins in the pay of narcotics gangsters, liberals, Zionists, agents of Moscow, the Rockefellers, the Trilateral Commission, the Queen of England and international terrorism generally.

**'Armed guards and
this political thing —
it's stirred people up.'**

James Kidwell, police chief



Associated Press

Lyndon H. LaRouche Jr.

In and around Leesburg, a town of antebellum, red brick buildings on narrow, tree-lined streets, Mr. LaRouche and his enterprises have quietly bought up \$2.3 million worth of property and are leasing large units of office and retail space. The LaRouche presence is said to entail a payroll of 200 people and was at first regarded as an economic stimulus in a rural county badly in need of a share of the building boom that is filling Maryland and Virginia land within a 45-minute drive of the White House with dozens of office buildings and housing developments.

What some county residents do not want to share, it now appears, is an organization whose leader lives in armed seclusion. Residents have periodically complained to the police about the estate, especially when youngsters on horseback have strayed onto it and been intercepted by uniformed security men.

"We do have a lot of calls from our citizens who say they're afraid of these people," said the Loudoun County Sheriff, John Isom.

Speaking of Mr. LaRouche, James Kidwell, chief of the town police, added: "You got a little old quiet country town here and all of a sudden he's got armed guards and this strange political thing, and it's really stirred people up. They don't understand it."

Real trouble began last summer. In June, about 300 young recruits to Mr. LaRouche's National Democratic Policy Committee were brought by bus to Leesburg from cities around the country for a series of seminars convened in space rented in the volunteer fire house. At lunchtime the visitors went into nearby stores and, according to the police, scores of them began a binge of shoplifting that one merchant said was "like a plague of locusts."

\$1,100 in Merchandise Recovered

Chief Kidwell said his officers recovered \$1,100 worth of \$2,900 in merchandise that the merchants had reported stolen. The LaRouche organization paid storekeepers for the balance, and no charges were filed. The remaining sessions of the seminar were then moved 10 miles away to a motel at Dulles International Airport. But Leesburg remembers.

Mr. LaRouche is said to leave his estate only periodically, and then only when surrounded by guards, but his aides are often visible in Loudoun, Leesburg and Washington. They have noisily disrupted news conferences of President Reagan and Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher of Britain, among others, and last May one of them interrupted a speech by Richard R. Burt, Assistant Secretary of State for European Affairs, by shouting: "You're a Soviet agent! You're an enemy agent! You're a traitor to the United States!"

As for the summer camp, a LaRouche spokesman said it was meant to be nothing more than "a company benefit for employees." But when the organization applied to the county zoning commission for the needed land use variance, opponents got their first public forum in which to

gage the outlanders.

At two noisy night meetings of the zoning commission last month, there were assertions that even at the youth camp there would be armed guards and that the summer program might include a secret weapons training program. Polly Girvin, a lawyer speaking as a LaRouche opponent, said, "We are concerned for the safety, peace and security of our homes and families." Another opponent testified in a wig, lest she be identified and "harassed," she said. All witnesses were repeatedly photographed by a LaRouche photographer.

In her testimony to the zoning commission, Susan Ulanowsky, 32, the camp director, denied that there would be any firearms training. She said the campground caretaker had a gun "to shoot snakes." The camp curriculum she described included Shakespeare, art, music, poetry, science and ancient Greek, all designed, she said, to further the LaRouche theory that "good citizens of the American republic must have the intellectual stimulation of classical education, which is ignored by the bad public schools."

The zoning commission's staff recommended approval of the camp permit for a period of one year only. But the staff added as a condition of approval an agreement that "under no circumstances" would weapons or armed guards be on the camp compound. Board members said they wanted the cautionary codicil to include archery equipment.

Dean C. Worcester, a LaRouche lawyer, accepted the condition. "But the real objection to this application is not the camp itself," he said. "What they object to is the political views of the campers' parents and their employer. The criticism is politically motivated and has no proper place in this zoning decision."

The commission voted to refer the application to a committee. One leading county official, asking not to be named, predicted after the hearing that "it will probably stay in the air."



George Diehl, right, a Loudoun County, Va., sheriff's deputy, standing guard at a public meeting of the county planning commission.